

Not Eating Can Be Deadly For Cats



Your cat isn't eating all that well and you're wondering if you should be concerned. The answer is yes! Cats, unlike people and many other animals, cannot go without food for any period of time. When a cat's caloric intake decreases dramatically it can be a trigger for Feline Hepatic Lipidosis or "Fatty Liver Syndrome".

Normally, when a cat's body is undernourished, the body removes fat from its reserves to the liver to be converted into energy. However, feline bodies aren't designed to metabolize fat in this manner.

The buildup of fat cells compromises their liver function. Nature intended for your kitty to kill small prey and eat it several times a day. Cats need a carnivorous diet. Their bodies were never meant to store a lot of

fat. If left untreated, the liver ultimately fails and cats can and do die from this condition.

The most consistent sign of fatty liver syndrome is loss of appetite, along with substantial weight loss, dehydration, excessive drooling, vomiting, weakness and lack of energy, and enlargement of the liver. In latter stages, your veterinarian can often detect jaundice and sometimes seizures. The earlier this syndrome is detected, the better the chance for full recovery.

Found worldwide, any breed of cat at any age is at risk for this disease. It is most commonly seen in overweight middle-aged felines that drop weight too quickly. Any number of events can factor in the onset of this medical condition, such as anxiety over the addition of a new pet,

change in the owner's schedule, or even a dietary change not liked by your kitty. With timely intervention and no underlying medical issues, the prognosis can be optimistic.

In approximately half of the hepatic lipidosis cases there's a medical condition that has caused the cat's loss of appetite. The root of the problem could include liver disease, cancer, pancreatitis, diabetes, kidney disease, severe anemia, heart disease, brain disease, and infections. Treatment must be provided for the underlying cause as well as for the hepatic lipidosis.

Nutritional support is the treatment for this disease. Sometimes it means force-feeding, either by syringe or tube until your cat is willing to eat a sufficient amount of food on its own. It usually takes four to six weeks with the nutritional support, but occasionally it can take longer. Most cats go back to their regular lives after this treatment.

So how do you avoid fatty liver syndrome? Vets see this disease most often in obese cats that suddenly lose a dramatic amount of weight, so decrease their food amount slowly. Sometimes dental problems or social or emotional issues will cause a cat to lose interest in eating. Keep a watchful eye on your pet's food consumption and contact your vet immediately if he hasn't eaten for more than 2-3 days.

Sources: www.upstatevets.com, www.petmed.com, www2.vet.cornell.edu, www.peteducation.com, www.merckmanuals.com



Dr. Billie Winter & Becky



1517 Meadow Street
Littleton, NH 03561
603-259-3244

www.secondchancear.org
email: secondchancear.org@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/secondchancear
www.twitter.com/SCARLittletonNH
www.instagram.com/secondchancear

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OUR MISSION

To provide homeless animals with a second chance at life and companionship in a no-kill shelter.

Our organization goes beyond shelter walls and is committed to:

- 1) Positive people and animal relationships and placements
- 2) Offering affordable spay, neuter and vaccination clinics
- 3) Cooperative rescue efforts
- 4) Animal welfare education

Second Chance Animal Rescue is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. SCAR receives no federal, state or local tax money; or portions of donations made to national humane organizations.



The Scoop



Low Cost Spay & Neuter Clinics

Call us at 603-259-3244 to schedule your cat or dog
Sept. 19, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 19

Low Cost Shot Clinic

Saturday, October 8
SCAR Shelter 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Halloween Bake Sale

Saturday, October 29
Shaw's Market 9:00 am till gone

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, November 26
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

ShoeBox Recycling

Drop off your unwanted shoes
We raise \$20 for every 40 lbs we collect!

Pet Food Drive

"No More Empty Bowls." SCAR is accepting donated pet food for distribution by local food pantries.

Tent Sale

Our annual tent sale is our largest fundraiser of the year, and our supporters didn't let us down once again! Thank you to all the donors, the hard working volunteers and to Abbott Rental, Ed Carbonneau, Frank Dodge and Val Poulsen.



Tony Ilacqua Chicken BBQ

The night was perfect for good food, good friends and a good time! Every dollar of profit from our fundraisers goes to the local homeless cats. A special thank you to **Porfido's, Abbott Rental, the VFW** and our wonderful volunteers!



Homer's Homilies

Now that the weather is getting cooler and we are heading toward couch-potato time, I want to call attention to National Pet Obesity Awareness Day which is celebrated on October 7th. It is estimated that 58% of the feline population in the United States is overweight.

As little as 2 pounds above ideal weight can put your cuddly companion at risk for Type 2 diabetes, heart and respiratory problems, osteoarthritis, kidney disease, high blood pressure, and many forms of cancer—especially intra-abdominal cancers. To put things in perspective, a 15 lb. cat is the equivalent of a 218 lb. 5'4" female or a 259 lb. 5'9" male. Wow! That's a lot to think about.

The secret to weight loss is a concerned and committed pet owner working with a veterinarian to establish a proper diet and exercise plan. It is up to your human family to protect you from harm and not contribute to your decreased life expectancy. Replace excessive "chowtime" with "playtime". 🐾



Simon Says....

If you were to play a game of Simon Says with our Simon, it would go something like this: Simon says be a handsome grey tabby. Simon says be a loving purr machine. Simon says have a beautiful pair of yellow eyes and high pointy ears. Simon says be a curious explorer.



What Simon wouldn't say is to be brought to Second Chance at about a year old with trauma to his trachea/larynx. We don't know what happened to him, but the vet has taken x-rays and we are continuing consultations with the vet to learn more about what we can expect during Simon's recovery.

In the meantime, although he is quite thin he is eating well, and it's easy to see what a specimen of cathood he will be in full health. Simon holds no grudges and is a sweet, affectionate boy. He welcomes all visitors and is looking forward to interviewing his forever family members very soon.

Cat Tails: Ninja & Nutmeg



We've received more great news about a special pair of shelter cats, Ninja and Nutmeg. They were two-time returnees to the shelter and were at the shelter for many months.

"It's hard to believe that we will have had Ninja and Nutmeg

six months on Saturday, August 20th. They have been adjusting well to their fur-ever home so we decided to take them to our camper this past weekend. Here is a picture of them snuggling together (it is so sweet to see them crossing their legs over each other, what a Kodak Moment). We commend you for not separating them as we truly believe they would not have adjusted the way they have without each other. Please know they are still, and always will be, the King and Queen of our 'castle'. Mike & Sherri G."

Cat Tails: Leo

"Leo (formerly Taco) has been here a week now, and he is doing great! He's growing like a weed and has won over the big resident cat, Marty (11 years old). They chase and play together. Leo is affectionate and sweet, happy and healthy, thanks to your loving care for him early in life. Thank you! Susan S."



Life is Better in Flip Flops!



Life is better in flip flops! Those words offer a fascinating glimpse into the life and travels of Rebecca McVickar, our featured volunteer for this issue of Shelter Mews.

College studies inspired our girl to a brief career in the Foreign Service. Being fluent in Spanish was a plus for her hands-on-learning assignment in Central America. Part of the field work involved the historic transfer of control of the Panama Canal from the United States to the Panamanian government. As exciting as all of this was, those travel friendly flip flops

were destined for a different journey in life.

Rebecca's lifelong passion for animals dictated packing her bags and heading back to college to become a veterinary nurse. After graduation she worked at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. As if that wasn't fulfilling enough, she also did foster care for The Animal Rescue League of Boston and worked for the Brewster Veterinary Hospital in Brewster, Massachusetts. Semi-retirement now allows this Cape Cod resident to volunteer her services for SCAR's monthly spay/neuter clinics.

Rebecca's talents seem to be unlimited. She has masterfully balanced time to be a wife, a mother of two sons, and an educator. She has raised alpacas, rescued cats, and explored wild and exotic places with her camera. This lady lives her life in widening circles to the limit of her longing. We are so grateful to be within that circle, and grateful her longing for the mountains brings her to the North Country and to our shelter.

Cat Tails: Harley & Noah

"Nacho, now Harley because he purrs as loud as a Harley Davidson, fits right in already. He's a little explorer, he was out of his carrier immediately. He was very friendly with the kids, meowing & playing with them and what an appetite....lol. Noah scooted behind the bed so we left him alone, figured that was our signal he wanted some space so we came out into the living room and Harley came too :). Thank you again for our two wonderful boys and for the obvious love you give all of the cats you have there, your hard work shows. Melissa S."

Cat Tails: Miss Ellie

"I'm happy to say that Miss Ellie has definitely found her forever home. Thank you so much for giving me this little bundle of joy in my life. :) Katie P."





Shelter Wish List

- Clay Cat Litter
- Purina Cat or Kitten Chow
- Purina Healthy Weight
- Canned Pate Cat Food (Non-fish)
- Paper Towels
- HE Laundry Detergent
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Brother TN450 Toner Cartridge
- Copy Paper & Postage Stamps
- Gift Cards to Walmart,
- Littleton Office Supply,
- Staples, Shaws, etc.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

You can Help

We know that you're swamped with requests for donations. While we all support the big national organizations that help animals, we ask that you first consider giving to your local shelter. We are all volunteer with no paid staff, so 100% of your donation goes directly for the care of the animals. You can visit us any day and see your gift at work giving the abandoned and abused a "Second Chance"!

MONETARY DONATIONS

SCAR relies entirely on private donations to be able to fund our adoption program through our Shelter, offer spay and neuter clinics, and other programs for the community. Please mail your check today, large or small. You can also donate securely online at www.secondchancear.org.

VOLUNTEER

SCAR is a 100% volunteer maintained organization, and you can join us and help the cats and kittens who can't do for themselves. Fill out a Volunteer Application today.

FOSTER

Can you open your home occasionally to house a mom and her kittens until they're old enough to be adopted, or house a needy cat on a short term basis when the shelter is full? Call the shelter for more information.

ESTATE GIFTS

Include SCAR in your will, trust or with a beneficiary designation.

GIFT OF STOCK & ANNUITIES

Stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares and other securities, along with transferring of real estate offer alternative ways to give that can benefit both you and SCAR.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Tribute gifts can be made in memory of, or in honor of, a pet or loved one. A card will be sent upon request.

WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

Many workplaces coordinate charitable giving campaigns for their employees. These campaigns allow employees to donate through one-time gifts and regular payroll deductions.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

There are many ways for your company to increase its visibility in the community and build positive brand presences while helping Second Chance.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Help keep our supply closet stocked up year round. See our wish list at www.secondchancear.org

EBAY SELLABLES

Donate jewelry, antiques, autos and other estate valuables year-round and we'll sell them on EBay. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

TAG US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow and tag us on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram when you post photos of your adopted cats or SCAR events. The links are on our website.